

MORE ABOUT "ENDOCRINE GLANDS"

Doctor, have you read the book by Louis Ber-
man, M. D., entitled "The Glands Regulating
Personality: A Study of the Glands of Internal
Secretion in Relation to the Types of Human
Nature"? Have you read the extensive reviews
of this book in the various magazines and news-
papers? You should read them carefully and
thoughtfully because thousands of people are read-
ing them and you should be prepared to deal
intelligently with those of your own patients who
will need your services after such reading.

This book is a remarkably clever and attractive
blending of known facts about an important and
only partially understood subject with logical,
illogical and visionary theories in such a way that
the average reader accepts the whole thing as a
fact.

Multitudes of readers will act upon the "knowl-
edge" they obtain from this book and from its
extensive reviews to "prolong" their lives, change
their "personalities," restore their "lost vigor" or
cure their diseases by purchasing and using these
dangerous preparations now everywhere available,
or by becoming patrons of some of the numerous
advertising fake healers who already are reaping
harvests from this field.

Publications about such subjects with more
positive differentiation between fact and fancy are
useful to physicians and other serious students, but
they would have no great "news" value and no
"publicity" or "propaganda" value under these
circumstances.

Stories like the book in question are being issued
about other unsolved questions of pathology, and
no doubt more will be forthcoming. They do a
great deal of harm of several varieties and little,
if any, good in any way.

Of course, there are problems—great problems—
bound up in the physiology, pathology, diagnosis
and treatment of disturbances of the glands of
internal secretion. There is and has been for many
years an ever advancing chain of new knowledge
being produced from many sources tending toward
solution of the problems. All that is safe of this
new knowledge is taken advantage of by physicians
in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, and such
progress, research, and practice should and will
continue.

However, serious thinkers regret the introduction
of literature which, whatever the intentions of the
authors, tends to deceive the general public and
lends itself so readily to the uses of propagandists
and even unscrupulous persons for commercial
purposes. This to the detriment both of legitimate
science and of the public health.

OVERSPECIALIZATION IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

We are hearing and reading a lot about over-
specialization in the practice of medicine and the
importance of this development in the constantly
increasing cost of medicine to the public.

We are not yet hearing so much about the vastly
more important problem of the enormous cost of

public health and public welfare and the more
certain element of overspecialization in producing
the excessive cost.

The generally recognized specialties in diagnosis
and treatment of disease are less than ten. They
are all in the hands of physicians. The specialties
in "prevention" as now practiced and paid for
range from twenty or more in rural communities
to hundreds in some cities. Some of these are
the legitimate medical and government agencies
usually operated by physicians and other health
officers of experience.

The array of so-called voluntary organizations
is bewildering in their number, in their activities,
in the changing and often doubtful quality of
leadership and in the amount of money they spend.

The contributing public is becoming curious, and
one of these days someone is going to take the
trouble to find out how much money is collected,
donated, levied by taxes and otherwise provided
by the public for "welfare and health work";
they will show when, where and what for this
money was used, and when that is done and pub-
lished there is going to be a slump in organizations
devoted to "uplift."

DANGERS IN EDUCATION

The dangers of government bureaucracy, poli-
tics and over-organization in education are empha-
sized in the annual report of the President of
Columbia University just issued. We read:

"One of the most noteworthy of recent develop-
ments in American life is the zeal with which
machinery is designed and built ostensibly to serve
various public interests and undertakings, but in
reality to control them. Perhaps in no other way
is the decline of faith in liberty so clearly
marked. . . .

"So far as education is concerned, this has been
over-organized for a long time past. Too many
persons are engaged in supervising, in inspecting
and in recording the work of other persons. There
is too much machinery, and in consequence a
steady temptation to lay more stress upon the form
of education than upon its content. Statistics dis-
place scholarship. . . .

"It is now proposed to bureaucratize and to bring
into uniformity the educational system of the whole
United States, while making the most solemn
assurance that nothing of the kind is intended. . . .
If tax-supported education be first encouraged and
inspected, and then little by little completely con-
trolled, by central authority, European experience
shows precisely what will happen. . . .

"The true path of advance in education is to be
found in the direction of keeping the people's
schools closely in touch with the people them-
selves. Bureaucrats and experts will speedily take
the life out of even the best schools and reduce
them to dried and mounted specimens of pedagogic
fatuity. Unless the school is both the work and
the pride of the community which it serves, it is
nothing. . . .

"It is fortunate that Columbia University, a public
institution, was founded and is supported by the
State in the field of liberty, and that it is free to
carry on its work beyond the reach of the deaden-
ing hand of government."

There is more in this report that every person
interested in education should read.